

AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Amended) The container of Claim 41 wherein said connector means comprise in combination;

a. a first tubular hinge lug member protruding from a first one of said panels,

b. a second, tubular hinge lug member protruding from a second one of said panels adjacent to said first panel and coaxially alignable with said first tubular member, and

c. a friction pin inserted into coaxially aligned bores within said first and second tubular hinge members in interference fits therewithin.

3. (Original) The container of Claim 2 wherein said first panel is further defined as being said roof panel.

4. (Original) The container of Claim 3 wherein said second panel is further defined as being a side panel.

5. (Original) The container of Claim 4 wherein said first hinge lug connector member is further defined as protruding downwardly from said roof panel.

6. (Original) The container of Claim 5 wherein said second hinge lug connector member is further defined as protruding from an upper portion of said side panel.

7. (Amended) The storage container of Claim 41 wherein at least one of said side panels is hingedly fastened to said base panel.

8. (Amended) The container of Claim 41 wherein said base panel is further defined as including a skeletal frame made of a pairs of parallel hollow rectangular channel members having closed upper surfaces and arranged in a rectangular grid, outer peripheral edges of each pair of said channel members being located at a side of the base and having thereat a pair of spaced apart tubular fork openings adapted to insertably receive a pair of laterally spaced apart forks of a fork lift truck.

1 9. (Original) The container of Claim 8 wherein at least a first pair of said fork openings is
2 located on a first side of said base, and at least a second pair of said fork openings is located
3 on a second side of said base non-parallel to said first said side.

4 10. (Original) The container of Claim 9 further including a third pair of fork openings
5 longitudinally aligned within and located on a third side of said base opposite said first side.

6 11. (Original) The container of Claim 10 further including a fourth pair of fork openings
7 longitudinally aligned with and located on a fourth side of said base opposite said second
8 side.

9 12. (Cancel)

10 13. (Cancel)

11 14. (Amended) The container of Claim ~~43~~ 41 further including an offset connector casting
12 comprising a rectangularly-shaped box having in an outer face parallel to a second side of
13 said base perpendicular to said first side a bore adapted to insertably receive an elongated
14 fastener member, thereby enabling a pair of said containers to be fastened together in a side-
15 by-side arrangement.

16 15. (Cancel)

17 16. (Cancel)

18 17. (Cancel)

19 18. (Cancel)

20 19. (Amended) The container of Claim ~~48~~ 44 wherein said connector means comprises in
21 combination;

22 a. at least one, first-type tubular hinge lug member which protrudes ~~protruding~~
23 downwardly from at least one of said roof ribs,

24 b. at least one, second-type tubular hinge lug member which protrudes ~~protruding~~
25 inwardly from one of said inner surfaces of upper ends of said side panels, and

26 c. a friction pin inserted into coaxially aligned bores within said first and second type
27 tubular hinge lug members in interference fits therewithin.

1 20. (Original) The container of Claim 19 wherein said side panels of said container are
2 further defined as having at upper peripheral edges thereof horizontally disposed panel ribs
3 having said inner surfaces from which said second type tubular hinge connector lugs protrude.

4
5 21. (Cancel)

6 22. (Amended) The container of Claim 43 wherein said roof ribs forming said ring-shaped
7 roof rib structure are further defined as having a uniform cross sectional shape.

8 23. (Original) The container of Claim 22 wherein said cross sectional shape is further
9 defined as being rectangular.

10 24. (Amended) The container of Claim ~~23~~ 20 wherein said panel ribs are further defined as
11 having a rectangular cross-sectional shape.

12 25. (Original) The container of Claim 24 wherein at least one of said roof and panel ribs is
13 further defined as being hollow.

14 26. (Original) The container of Claim 22 wherein said cross-sectional shape of said roof ribs
15 is further defined as being that of a right triangle, said triangle having a downwardly and
16 radially inwardly angled hypotenuse.

17 27. (Amended) The container of Claim ~~26~~ 20 wherein said panel ribs are further defined as
18 having a right-triangular cross-sectional shape, said triangle having a downwardly and radially
19 inwardly angled hypotenuse.

20 28. (Amended) The container of Claim ~~24~~ 27 wherein at least one of said roof and panel ribs
21 is further defined as being hollow.

22 29. (Cancel)

23 30. (Withdrawn) In a storage container having a base, the improvement comprising a
24 skeletal frame for said base, said skeletal frame comprising pairs of interconnected parallel
25 hollow channel members having closed upper surfaces and arranged in a rectangular grid,
26 outer peripheral edges of each pair of said channel member being located at side of said

1 base and having thereat a pair of spaced apart tubular fork openings adapted to insertably
2 receive a pair of laterally spaced apart forks of a fork lift truck.

3 31. (Withdrawn) The container of Claim 30 wherein at least a first pair of said fork openings
4 is located on a first side of said base, and at least a second pair of said fork openings is
5 located on a second side of said base non-parallel to said first said side.

6 32. (Withdrawn) The container of Claim 31 further including a third pair of fork openings
7 longitudinally aligned within and located on a third side of said base opposite said first side.

8 33. (Withdrawn) The improvement of Claim 32 wherein said channels have a rectangular
9 shape.

10 34. (Withdrawn) The improvement of Claim 33 wherein said upper surfaces of said channel
11 members are flat and co-planar.

12 35. (Withdrawn) The improvement of Claim 34 wherein said channel members are tubular.

13
14 36. (Withdrawn) In a storage container having a rectangularly-shaped base and at least one
15 corner of said base a first type connector body having through a front face parallel and
16 adjacent to a first, short side of said base, an aperture through said face adapted to receive
17 a first elongated fastener member disposed parallel to a second side of said base intersecting
18 said first side thereof at said corner, the improvement comprising a second connector body
19 identical to said first connector body but rotated ninety degrees in a plane parallel to said base
20 and offset from said corner along said second side of said base, said second connector body
21 having through an outer face thereof an aperture adapted to receive a second elongated
22 fastener member disposed perpendicularly to said second side of said base, whereby a
23 plurality of said containers may be interconnected via first and second connector bodies and
24 first and second elongated fastener members in end-to-end and side-by-side configurations,
25 respectively.

26 37. (Cancel)

27 38. (Cancel)

1 39. (Amended) The improvement of Claim 45 wherein said end cap is angled diagonally
2 downwardly from said inner intersection of said interior vertical side walls of said L-shaped
3 stacking block, thereby facilitating draining water from said roof panel.

4 40. (Cancel)

5 41. (New) A storage container comprising;

6 a. a base panel which has a rectangular plan-view outline shape, each corner of said
7 base panel having located thereat a corner connector casting comprising a generally
8 rectangularly-shaped box having in an outer face parallel to a first side of said base a bore
9 adapted to insertably receive an elongated fastener member, thereby enabling a pair of said
10 containers to be fastened together in an end-to-end arrangement,

11 b. a plurality of side panels fastenable to said base panel in an upright orientation with
12 respect thereto,

13 c. a roof panel,

14 d. connector means for fastening said roof panel to said side panels, thereby securing
15 said side panels in said upright orientation and forming between inner surfaces of said base
16 panel, side panels and roof panel an enclosed storage space.

17 42. (New) A storage container comprising;

18 a. a base panel which has a rectangular plan-view outline shape,

19 b. a plurality of side panels fastenable to said base panel in an upright orientation with
20 respect thereto,

21 c. a roof panel, said roof panel having at each corner thereof an upwardly protruding
22 stacking block having a flat upper surface adapted to support a lower surface of said base of
23 another such container, said stacking block having a recess formed in a side thereof, said roof
24 panel having located proximate said recess an upwardly protruding hoist ring, said ring
25 having an uppermost edge surface no higher than said upper surface of said stacking block,
26 and

1 d. connector means for fastening said roof panel to said side panels, thereby securing
2 said side panels in said upright orientation and forming between inner surfaces of said base
3 panel, side panels and roof panel an enclosed storage space.

4 43. (New) A storage container comprising;

5 a. a base panel,
6 b. a plurality of side panels fastenable to said base panel in an upright orientation with
7 respect thereto,

8 c. a roof panel, said roof panel having protruding downwardly from a lower surface
9 thereof a plurality of at least two roof ribs, said roof ribs forming a ring-shaped structure and
10 being laterally spaced apart a distance enabling said ribs to be insertably received between
11 inner surfaces of upper ends of said side panels, and

12 d. connector means for fastening said roof panel to said side panels, thereby securing
13 said side panels in said upright orientation and forming between inner surfaces of said base
14 panel, side panels and roof panel an enclosed storage space.

15 44. (New) A storage container comprising;

16 a. a base panel,
17 b. a plurality of side panels fastenable to said base panel in an upright orientation with
18 respect thereto,

19 c. a roof panel, said roof panel having protruding downwardly from a lower surface
20 thereof a plurality of at least two roof ribs which are laterally spaced apart a distance enabling
21 said ribs to be insertably received between inner surfaces of upper ends of said side panels,
22 and said roof panel having protruding downwards therefrom a peripheral flange spaced
23 radially apart from said roof ribs to form therewith a channel adapted to insertably receive an
24 upper end surface of said side panels, and

25 d. connector means for fastening said roof panel to said side panels, thereby securing
26 said side panels in said upright orientation and forming between inner surfaces of said base
27 panel, side panels and roof panel an enclosed storage space.

1 45. (New) In a storage container having a roof panel and upright members connected at
2 upper ends thereof at corners of said roof panel, the improvement comprising a raised L-
3 shaped stacking block fastened to said roof panel, said stacking block having a generally flat
4 upper surface and interior vertical side walls forming with intersecting sides of said roof panel
5 a rectangularly-shaped space connecting with an upper end of said upright, said upright
6 having an end cap and a hoisting ring protruding upwardly from said end cap, said hoisting
7 ring having an upper surface no higher than said upper surface of said stacking block.